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C O P Y

Los Angeles, Calif. Aug. 16, 1936

Editor

Los Angeles Times

City

Dear Sir:

Every since coming to Los Angeles from Chicago some fifteen years ago, I have been a registered voter in the 13th California Congressional District, A Democrat since the day I was born, and as such I was quite interested in an article that appeared in a recent issue of your paper as to the qualifications of the several candidates running for Congress in the August 25th primary from the 13th district, and especially the shortness of the paragraph pertaining to Charles Kramer, the present Democratic incumbent, as to have printed ALL you may possibly know of this "gentleman's" record would probably be inviting a libel suit, as no doubt you know of his record before coming to Los Angeles from Chicago as I and many other former residents of Chicago do, and of his conviction and sentence to two years in the Illinois penitentary at Joliet for dishonesty and bribery in politics in the old Levee district where, as a shyster lawyer, he was known as the prostitutes' attorney. Also of his later conviction by the Federal Government with a man by the name of M. A. Shableas for operating a so-called patent medicine firm known as the Navico Co. with offices at 170 West Randolph St., Chicago, but which was in reality a boot-leg joint during prohibition days, specializing in alcohol and the several ingredients that were used in those days for manufacturing bath tub gin and similar concoctions, and as a blind for handling dope of all kinds: heron, cocain, etc., and of which their patent medicinn was one.

In some manner Kramer and Shableas wiggled out of which with only a heavy fine

and the suspension of Navico Co. and agreement that Kramer would leave the state of Illinois, and which he did by coming to Los Angeles after being disbarred from the practice of law in Illinois, and finding there was not much for him in Los Angeles as to the kind of law that he was interested in, others of his kind having older and closer connections, and prior rights, to the underworld business, he turned to the practice of usury, his boot-leg and narcotic business in Chicago having given him considerable capital, and ever since then, and right up to the present day, and all during the past few years that he has been in Con gress, he has been running various loan shark games camouflaged as finance companies, and by brickery and device has been and still is, flaunting our usury laws and "discounting" money to manufacturers. He does not LOAN it, he "discounts" it at the rate of 7% per month of 84% per annum. He not only collects interest but also various "discount" charges: "cash discount charge," "carrying charge," "brokerage" etc., and when a manufacturer taken an invoice to the Credit Discount Co. at 315 West 9th St., located in the adjoining room to Kramer's Los Angeles Congressional office at same address, 315 West Ninth St., and owned by Kramer with his son Arthur as manager, and wishes to loan against, we will say for example, a $100.00 invoice running 30 days, he will find that he can get $70.00 on it by paying ALL the various charges, discount charge, cash discount charge, carrying charge, brokerage, etc. for 90 days on the face value($100.00) of the invoice, the manufacturer getting the use of $70.00 for 30 days while Kramer collects all the many charges on $100.00 for 90 days on the face value ($100.00) of the invoice, the manufacturer getting the use of $70.00 for 30 days while Kramer collects all the money charges on $100.00 for 90 days--or $5.00 for the use of $70.00 for 30 days, and my banker tells me that that is approximately 7% per month, or 84% per annum, absolutely illegal and bordering on being criminal.

Proof of his Chicago convictions can be found in Cook County records of years just prior to the war, and just after,while theBetter Business Bureau of Los Angeles can confirm his usury practices here and of their efforts to stop it, but a loop hole in the law defeated their purpose. And every cent of his usury the manufacturer necessarily adds to his prices and in the end, like taxes, the consumer and voter pays the bill.

The Credit Discount Co. (in reality Charles Kramer personally) falls exactly under the classification of the "money changers" that President Roosevelt has all along condemed as one of those that would be driven from the temple, but it continues to flourish and Kramer remain one of the smaller fry of what Mr. Roosevlet terms "princes of privilege," and yet without as much as a blush on the part of the President--even though he must know of Kramer's record as the Better Business Bureau does--he allows Kramer to act as one of his "rubber stamps" in Washington and again endorses him as his candidate from the 13th California district, yet, and the President surely knows too, that Kramer is also entered on both the Republican and Progressive tickets as well, proving he has no loyalty to any party, that his ambition to return to Congress is NOT for political reasons, but purely financial purposes as Kramer, according to certain of his Congressional contemporaries, has gotten rich in Congress by the rankest kind of graft and dishonest methods, and now wants to return by any method possible and is asking the very people he robs--the voters--who pay his usury, hidden in higher prices on everything they buy from local retailers when bought from manufacturers who discount their invoices through the Credit Discount Co.

Is it a wonder that so few self-respecting men have the courage to run for public office ~~forxthix~~ when they know that men like Kramer hold them too? And it is for this reason, and due entirely and solely to my first-hand knowledge of Charles Kramer for the past thirty years,--half of it in Chicago and the other half here--

that for the first time in my life I am voting the Republican ticket, as, if it is necessary for Mr. Roosevelt to carry Kramer in his political bag, then it is time that every Democrat vote for some other party. I would rather see the Communist candidate from our district go to Washington than Charles Kramer. Our Communist candidate is at least honest even if we do not agree in our political creeds. Kramer is a disgrace to not only the party he represents, but to any party, the American people and the people of his own race, the Jewish people, and his "financial connections" would make even a Main Street pawn broker's face turn red.

Let's take up his Washington record since slightly touching on his Chicago and Los Angeles record, and if you will ask any of his contemporaries in Congress they will tell you that now since Zioncheck is dead, ~~and~~ that Kramer is the latest No. 1 insane man and pint-sized fool in Congress,and that dates back to the time we first heard of him in Congress when he got into a fist fight on the steps of the Capitol with another Congressman who condemed Kramer for his un-American and pro-German actions in his efforts, and trip to Germany, for which German interests paid him well, to allow German goods to come into the United States practically free of duty, and that no excessive duty would be placed on German goods subsidized by the German government--a subsidy given to ruin our factories--and at a time when our manufacturers were at their lowest ebb and labor at the point of starvation and revolution, but also before Hitler took his drastic actions toward the Jews. But Kramer being so thoroughly licked and booed in Congress over his efforts of nearly free entry of German goods into the United States, then turned to physical force and carried on a regular Zioncheck affair by a fist fight on the Capitol steps with a genuine American Congressman who opposed Kramer's anti-labor actions in favor of Germany. For this alone he is NOT deserving of one single labor vote, to say nothing of manufacturers he attempted to ruin, and I hope, through your paper, and other papers I have sent copies of this to, that every factory worker--man or woman--in Los Angeles County will be appraised of this. Its only one of his many anti-labor acts.

Then the next we heard of him was his introduction of what is considered the most un-American bill EVER placed before Congress; a bill to throttle free speech, a bill directed at the mouths and pens of every person who has a different political creed than the President, a bill so un-American that is was directed against the very principles of a free country and part of the very foundation on which our country is built, and was too much for even Mr. Roosevelt to stand. Not even a Communist would condone such a bill as un-American as their principles are. And it was just for one selfish purpose--even at the cost of American free speech by word of mouth or pen--to close the mouth of Father Coughlin, a personal hatred by Kramer as a Jew toward Father Coughlin as a Catholic. This action alone should deny Kramer of the vote of every genuine American, expecially the Catholics as it was a disguised--like his usury scheme camouflages--blow at t the Catholics. Just a Jew's personal bitterness toward a well-meaning Catholic in Kramer's belief that the Reverend Father was riding a Jew usurer to his political death. I am a Baptist as well as a Democrat but a million times over would it be better to see Father Couglin's party in power than Charles Kramer back in office. Think of it--a bill to make free speech in the United States a felony. Then the next we heard of Kramer, the last of his three initiative actions in Washington, as the President then took him to task and he compromised by agreeing to "rubber stamp" only if he wanted the President's support in the coming primary, or fall elections if nominated in the primary--which God forbid--was a bill that would have brought untold loss to the moving picture business, a loss of millions spent yearly in Hollywood and Los Angeles, and the losssof employment to hundreds of people, extras, etc. in the picture industry, and to build up in Europe a moving picture industry in direct competition with our own , and to deny the American people the pleasure of hearing Europe's most famous musicians, some of whom recently appeared in the Hollywood bowl. For this man Kramer, the representative of people living in a district where the picture business is very vital to them, proposed a bill to have all

foreign picture stars--Garbo, Arliss, Dietrich, Anna Stan and other foreign headliners--returned to their respective countries that the hundreds of Americans who now take part in their pictures in parts, extras, etc., and other positions, direct and indirectly, should be thrown out of employment by these foreign stars being compelled to rethrn to their native countries and there surround themselves with European casts, and wages and profits that now go to Hollywood be divided among European workers while their pictures would continue to be shown in the United States. It would be just as sound business to ship the Ford factory to Germany, to have the Ford cars made there by German labor with wages to Germany, then shipped to the United States to sell to us suckers here. Greta Garbo, Anna Sten, George Arliss and Marlene Dietrich never took an ounce of bread out of an American star's mouth in Hollywood, and for that matter, every picture made in Hollywood in which a foreign star appears not less than 100 Americans receive direct employment and thousands indirectly. Who would not welcome back to Hollywood Georges Carpentier and others like him, and if there are more Garbos in Europe let's get them here as soon as possible even in the face of Kramer's efforts to give the wages and profits that go with them to his blood kin in Europe. Every man and woman in the 13th District who is directly or indirectly affected by the picture industry--and I am one so know whereof I speak--should make it a personal business to see that Charles Kramer is NOT returned to Washington.

Also in his efforts to injure the picture industry in favor of European countries, he desires to deny the music loving people of the country the pleasure of hearing such artists as Heifetz, Stokowski, Kublick and others (if I have spelled their names correctly) by barring them from the U. S. and the employmentthey give others when they appear in the Hollywood Bowl and elsewhere, simply because European nations, in their narrowness, greed and short-sightedness barred American artists, but welcome our soldiers and dollars, so no music lover can wish Kramer back in Washington.

And now, I am told, he advocates rescinding the special privileges granted little Finland, the only European nation honest enough to pay Uncle Sam what she owes, on the Spruce she ships us (something we no longer grow) in favor of Russian spruce. Probably because Kramer found the Finns honest, refused to pay him as the Germans and Russians do to protect them in Congress.

All that I have so far written can be confirmed by reference to the Cook County, Illinois, records when Kramer was convicted of bribery and extortion and sent to Joliet along about 1910 to 1912 or the Chicago Federal Court about two years after the war when prohibition profits were running high, or the Better Business Bureau of Los Angeles in their efforts to stop his usury, bankruptcy of factories and increased prices to the consumer, but only succeeded in blackening him to the point necessitating him to change the name of his Shylock firm from the Finance and Discount Corporation to the Credit Discount Co. And as to his political and Zioncheck actions in Washington, Congressional records and any other Congressman will bear them out.

But in addition to the above there is much more from what I get from hearsay, and if there is anything in the old adage that where there is smoke there is fire, then both his wife and son Arthur are on Federal pay roll without giving any services in exchange, and which is not beneath Kramer. And I am just as fully inclined to believe the story and hearsay that he has his fingers, in fact both fists, in W.P.A. funds and something that every W.P.A. worker should know of, but that is small in comparison to what he has made from European countries, especially Germany--being but a commercial spy for them in Congress--to get their goods into the United States on such favorable terms as to run our ownfactories, Kramer being in Congress for no other purpose than to enrich himself and feather his own nest, and those who have had business dealings with him tell you that he is the maddest of all money mad men they ever encountered. He is just a plain crook, pulling the wool over Mr. Roosevelt's eyes, and camouflaging his European work by locally striking at foreign picture stars.

And now, Aug. 25th comes the primaries, a time when every true wisher for the welfare of the country can speak, and it behooves every voter in the 13th California district, regardless of race or color, political or religious creed, to see that Charles Kramer, the usurer, the Shylock, the un-American and anti-American, the foreign commercial spy in our midst, the destroyer of labor and industry, the liar, double bribe taker, ex-convict, the ex-narcotic peddler, be NOT returned to Congress. And I ask every Democrat, whether a New Dealer or Jeffersonian, and all Republicans and third party people too, to cast their vote for any candidate, even the Communist, in favor of giving Charles Kramer a single vote. A vote for him means a vote against the United States.

If I were a rich man instead of a poor man with a family of four small children and a wife to support, I would have sufficient copies of this printed and distributed to every voter in the 13th district, so I am doing the next best thing, mailing a copy to every paper in Los Angeles, hoping all will print it or make use of the information herein, and all that prompts me to go to that expense and trouble is that my family have been Americans since the landing of the Virginia Colonyists, and Democrats since the party was formed. And I am leaveing my name and address off at the behest of my wife, she knowing of Kramer as an exOconvict and fears for the safety of our children. Any may the Republicans win if Mr. Roosevelt carries Charles Kramer in his political sack this fall in the November election.

Kramer has stated that if the above information ever leaks out he will immediately issue a denial, but records are records.

A Life-long Democrat